

Marijuana Bills No. 1085 and 7372

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Testimony Submitted by:

Michael Makowski

Colchester, CT

860-705-4327

Under federal law, marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance (i.e. cocaine, heroin). This designation is reserved for drugs that have a high potential for abuse, and can't be safely prescribed. Anyone growing, marketing or distributing marijuana would be violating multiple Federal laws. Federal law supersedes state law. At any moment the Federal government can decide to enforce the marijuana laws and prosecute those who disobey the law.

I believe legalizing marijuana for recreational use is an "addiction for profit" scheme.

I believe we should do "no harm" to the residents of Connecticut.

Special interest groups will distort, misrepresent that marijuana is a harmless drug, but do not be misled.

I present to you in this document **substantial evidence** that marijuana is a harmful drug.¹

- Potency has increased dramatically since '70s and '80s
- Depending on marijuana plant species and exposure method, (inhalation or ingestion) THC concentration will vary. Intoxication can occur at levels as small as 2-5 ng/ml in blood (like 2 blades of grass on a football field)
- Daily or near daily use of marijuana is associated with impaired memory for at least 7 days
- While intoxicated, acute psychotic symptoms have been well- documented & continued use had led to future psychotic disorders like schizophrenia
- Users can develop cannabis use disorder/ addiction
- In Colorado recreational decriminalization of marijuana has led to increased marijuana exposures in children (unintentional ingestion) - Colorado noticed increased ED/ Urgent Care visits between 2009 and 2015 for marijuana associated illness and injuries. Marijuana- related visits increased from 1.8 per 1,000 visits in 2009 to 4.9 in 2015.² The most common discharge codes were cannabis abuse, followed by unspecified episodic mood disorder, alcohol abuse, and depressive disorder.²
- Since, marijuana was legalized recreationally in Colorado (2013), marijuana related traffic deaths increased 151 percent while all Colorado traffic deaths increased 35 percent.³ Since legalizing marijuana In Colorado the rate of traffic

¹ <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/marijuanahealthinfo/summary> Retrieved on 3/20/2019

² [https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(18\)30004-1/pdf](https://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(18)30004-1/pdf) retrieved on 3/1/ 2019

³ <https://rmhidta.org/files/D2DF/FINAL-%20Volume%205%20UPDATE%202018.pdf> retrieved on 12/4/2018

deaths increased by 17 additional deaths per year from 2013 to 2017 when the driver testing positive for marijuana.⁴ Similarly in Washington State, the percentage of drivers involved in fatal crashes who recently used marijuana more than doubled from 8 to 17 percent between 2013-2014.

- Colorado has seen increased use among adults ≥ 18 years older(In 2017 15.5 % from 13.6 % in 2016¹
- THC passes through placenta to the fetus and is present in breast milk¹
- Marijuana smoke contains many of same cancer causing chemicals as tobacco¹

⁴ <https://rmhidta.org/files/D2DF/FINAL-%20Volume%205%20UPDATE%202018.pdf> retrieved on 12/4/2018